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MANDAN EXPERIMENT STATION

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. R. 9389

By Mr. SINCLAIR

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
DAIRYING AND LIVESTOCK EXPERIMENT
STATION AT MANDAN, N. DAK.

MARCH 2, 1926

Serial I



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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-NINTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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CONTENTS

	Page
Statement of Hon. J. H. Sinclair-----	1
	III

MANDAN EXPERIMENT STATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., Tuesday, March 2, 1926.

Present: Messrs. Haugen (chairman), Purnell, McLaughlin, Tinch, Williams, Thompson, Ketcham, Hall, Pratt, Menges, Andersen, Adkins, Aswell, Kincheloe, Jones, Swank, Rubey, Doyle, and McSweeney.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will kindly come to order.

We have several bills to be considered by the committee this morning.

Mr. ASWELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask unanimous consent that the committee hear Mr. Meredith, former Secretary of Agriculture, at 10 o'clock a. m. on next Tuesday, one week from to-day. He is from Des Moines, Iowa, and he telegraphed me to know if he could not come before the committee on next Tuesday.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection it will be understood that the committee will hear Mr. Meredith at 10 o'clock on next Tuesday morning.

Mr. ASWELL. Now, Mr. Chairman, with regard to securing another room in which to hold the hearings on this remedial agricultural legislation, I would suggest that we hold those hearings in the majority room.

Mr. KINCHELOE. I would like to suggest that Mr. Ketcham be appointed a committee of one to consult with Mr. Griest, of Pennsylvania, with regard to the room of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, Mr. Ketcham will be appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Griest. Mr. Sinclair desires to be heard with regard to Bill H. R. 9389.

STATEMENT OF HON. J. H. SINCLAIR, REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. SINCLAIR. Gentlemen of the committee, I have a bill which passed the Agricultural Committee a year ago, known as H. R. 9389. It is a bill to establish a dairying and livestock experiment station at Mandan, N. Dak., in connection with the Great Plains Experiment Station. The bill is as follows:

A BILL To provide for the establishment of a dairying and livestock experiment station at Mandan, North Dakota

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture

is authorized and directed to establish at Mandan, North Dakota, a dairying and livestock experiment station, in connection with the Great Plains Experiment Station, for investigations and experiments in the dairy and livestock industries and the problems pertaining to the establishment and development of such industries, and for demonstrations, assistance, and service in livestock breeding, growing, and feeding.

SEC. 2. That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$25,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of this act, including the acquisitions of suitable lands, the construction of buildings, the purchase of livestock and breeders, and the employment of necessary persons.

The CHAIRMAN. How much money is asked for, Mr. Sinclair?

Mr. SINCLAIR. It calls to start with for an appropriation of \$25,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to it?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Perhaps if you will read that letter it will explain the whole matter.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The letter is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, February 27, 1926.

Hon. J. H. SINCLAIR,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SINCLAIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 17, inclosing a copy of your bill (H. R. 9389) to provide for the establishment of a dairy and livestock experiment station at Mandan, N. Dak., and which, I understand, supersedes the bill H. R. 238.

The legislation contemplated by the new bill seems to be in line with the suggestion contained in the department's letter of February 8, that the department would be justified in approving a small dairy and livestock demonstration station at Mandan. The purposes to be accomplished by the proposed legislation are, therefore, satisfactory to the department.

It is believed, however, that in the establishment of a station such as is proposed by the bill H. R. 9389, for community demonstration work, the land which is required for the purpose should be made available by the people of the community which will be benefited. The sum of \$25,000 is no more than will be required to provide the necessary buildings and other equipment, including livestock, and to defray the expenses of maintenance for one year, and therefore it would not be feasible to purchase the land from this appropriation.

Sincerely yours,

W. M. JARDINE, *Secretary.*

Submitted to the Bureau of the Budget, pursuant to Circular No. 49 of that bureau, and returned to the Department of Agriculture under date of February 26, 1926, with the advice that the foregoing is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

The CHAIRMAN. You have a station maintained by the Government there now?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. How much land do you own there now?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Nearly a section of land, I believe.

Mr. ASWELL. If you have one there now, what do you want with another?

Mr. SINCLAIR. This other station, now located at Mandan, is for shrubs and grass, and so forth. The dairying bureau of the Department of Agriculture has felt that they could work this dairy unit in connection with the Great Plains Station, the grass station,

and utilize the feeds and forage grown at that station to good advantage.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Is that the station owned by the Government?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Why does it make reference to the fact there that the land will be furnished by the people out there?

Mr. SINCLAIR. It is thought there might be some additional land needed, and the Government should have the right to acquire title by gift or otherwise.

Mr. KINCHELOE. You have a section there now?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

Mr. ASWELL. Is there any other dairy station in your State?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No other dairy station like this in the State that I know of.

Mr. ASWELL. Any dairy business?

Mr. SINCLAIR. There is some dairy business.

Mr. ASWELL. Not much, is there?

Mr. SINCLAIR. This is an effort to get our farmers to diversify. There isn't anything exactly like this as proposed in the bill except down at Woodward in Oklahoma, where there is a similar station.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Under the provisions of the Smith-Lever Act, would the cost of these stations—that is, the maintenance of them—be borne jointly by the State and the Federal Government?

Mr. SINCLAIR. You mean with regard to the Great Plains station?

Mr. KINCHELOE. I mean the maintenance of it in the future.

Mr. SINCLAIR. No; it will, of course, be maintained by the Federal Government.

Mr. ASWELL. Does the A. and M. College experimental station have anything to do with it? We provided an elaborate extension of the experimental stations, you know, and would not that take this in?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No; it would not take this one in.

Mr. HALL. Then this is 200 miles west of the experimental station, isn't it?

Mr. ASWELL. That may be true, but it is in the same State and the State is supposed to be covered.

The CHAIRMAN. The experimental station is located at Fargo?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. This is 200 miles west of Fargo?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. About in the center of the State?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. In the semiarid region?

Mr. SINCLAIR. In the semiarid region; yes. It is a different type of farming entirely from the type of farming practiced in the Red River Valley.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. I have been out there. They have a wonderful station out there, and it is in a section of the country where they are really entitled to it and need it.

Mr. ASWELL. I agree with that, but I was merely asking why it was not covered by the experimental stations, with regard to which we made elaborate extensions. Just because it is 200 miles away does not mean anything, because we have them in our State 400 miles apart.

The CHAIRMAN. You have two experimental stations in your State, Mr. Aswell?

Mr. ASWELL. We have three. The State experimental station controls all of them.

The CHAIRMAN. We made a special appropriation for the one at New Iberia, did we not?

Mr. ASWELL. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be along the same line; an addition to the regular station, as I understand it?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

Mr. TINCHER. We were about to abandon the Oklahoma station, as I understand it, because they said they could not maintain it on the appropriation given them this year. I understand unless the Senate amendment is put through that it is liable to be abandoned.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Did not they increase the appropriation this year for the Oklahoma station?

Mr. TINCHER. Congress had given them \$8,000, as I understand it.

Mr. ASWELL. The Budget first cut it all out, and then the committee restored it.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The work at the Oklahoma station I am told has been a very wonderful work. It could not be as successful as a station located further east. However, Congress has increased the appropriation for it to \$20,000.

Mr. RUBEX. In Missouri, for instance?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; dairying of course is more successful in the older States.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Do you think that would tend to diversify the farming up there, the establishment of this dairy station?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I think it would be the biggest step we could take in diversified farming in that region. They have been encouraged heretofore to engage in small grain farming and this will be a step to demonstrate to them, by showing them the right type of cattle and the right type of dairy cow that will be suitable for that sort of forage, that diversified farming is more profitable.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Have you any dairy interests at all contiguous to this place?

Mr. SINCLAIR. There are some.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Any commercial dairying?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No; not any commercial dairies.

Mr. MENGES. May I ask what kind of diversified farming you are going to do and what crop you are proposing to raise?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I can tell you the crops they do raise now. They are all small grain crops. The principal crop of the region has been for many years wheat.

The CHAIRMAN. You have some sheep raising out there, have you not?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; there is some of it, but it is mighty slow to get farmers to go into sheep raising when the farmers are facing a pretty hard proposition to live anyway, and when he hasn't any money with which to experiment and does not know what kind to buy.

The CHAIRMAN. And this is to encourage the buying of dairy cattle, is that it?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; so that they will know what to buy, what type is best for the forage crops that are raised there, and I think this will go a long ways toward making dairies successful.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Couldn't there be a lot of sheep grown in that country?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Roughly, of course sheep are raised west of there, and they were raised in the early days in that region. In fact, it has been a great stock-raising country before the homesteaders came.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Does your agricultural agent advocate to the farmers the raising of sheep as a profitable thing now?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; we have advocated it, but the coyotes and wolves are quite numerous, and it makes sheep-raising rather a precarious business.

Mr. RUBEY. Of course you can't raise tobacco up there?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No.

Mr. MENGES. The crops necessary to a dairy propositition are alfalfa and corn. Is that country adapted to the raising of alfalfa?

Mr. SINCLAIR. There has been some alfalfa raised and it has done very well where it has been properly started. This year I have had 10 times the demand for alfalfa seed, that which we get from the department, than I have had before—that is, 10 times the demand that I can supply. They are anxious to get hold of that seed, as they can not get enough of alfalfa to sow. Corn has been successfully raised in that region, as you know. The Mandan Indians have raised corn there for a thousand years. It was one of the first corn-raising places in the country.

Mr. MENGES. Does the corn ripen sufficient to use it for grain, or doesn't it ripen?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Oh, yes; it ripens. This experimental station has raised corn for the past 12 years and they average 20 bushels per acre, so the superintendent tells me. Of course, that only represents a small plot, and it is not generally raised so successfully throughout the region.

Mr. MENGES. How does ensilage corn do there?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Ensilage corn does not do so well. It is a dry region and the stalk does not grow as tall as in the Central States.

Mr. MENGES. There isn't bulk enough to it?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Not bulk enough; that is right. That is one of the things that we want to demonstrate.

Mr. MENGES. What would you substitute for that?

Mr. ASWELL. That is what they want to find out, Mr. Menges.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; we want to find out just what to substitute, and we want to learn just the best kind of fodder that can be raised most successfully for dairy feeds.

Mr. TINCHER. All this committee would do would be to authorize an appropriation for a new experimental station. That is what their bill amounts to.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

Mr. TINCHER. So long as the Appropriations Committee has about closed two other experimental stations that you think ought to be kept up, do you think this was a timely time to submit your bill?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I think it is a very necessary time; yes. It will supply a very decided need in that locality.

Mr. TINCHER. When did the farmers in that locality decide that they wanted to try diversified farming?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I do not know that the farmers have ever decided that. We would like to assist them in coming to that conclusion. Farmers are imitators, like other people, and one farmer will grow what his neighbor grows, and keep on doing it even though it is not successful, for a long period of time.

Mr. TINCHER. What do you think would be demonstrated through this demonstration farm that would be of benefit to the farmers?

Mr. SINCLAIR. What would be demonstrated?

Mr. TINCHER. Yes.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I think they should endeavor to teach them to select the best type of dairy cow, so that the farmer might know what is the best cow to raise.

Mr. TINCHER. But, if they have to feed a dairy cow 9 to 10 months out of the year, do you think they will be a success in that country in competition with sections of the country where a reverse condition obtains, and where the cattle eat off the natural grass for half the year and over?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I can not say that they could successfully compete with other sections of the country, but they could at least take care of local needs and local demands for dairy products in that region. I do not think it is advisable for communities to have to send out to buy their dairy products.

Mr. SWANK. Mr. Sinclair, has the Budget Bureau endorsed this bill?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

Mr. ASWELL. The Budget Bureau cut out two of these and indorsed this one.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The Secretary of Agriculture has given me to understand that he feels it would be advisable to establish this dairy unit, in a small way, of course.

Mr. TINCHER. But they are advocating abandoning one where they have the buildings and where it has been operating successfully, are they not?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I was not aware that that was the case, Mr. Tinch.

Mr. KINCHELOE. As I understand it, the Budget has indorsed it and that ends the whole matter, doesn't it?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I have the indorsement of the Budget Bureau.

Mr. MENGES. Does the cowpea grow up there, or is it too far north?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I do not think the cowpea grows up there. I do not know about it.

The CHAIRMAN. Your country is well adapted to the growing of alfalfa and you grow a lot of it in that section of the country, do you not?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I think it is well adapted to it, yes, but I wouldn't say that we grow a lot of it there.

The CHAIRMAN. I noticed that there are several hundred stacks, or were, of alfalfa up there in the Nessen Valley.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes, and that is north of the point that I am speaking of.

The CHAIRMAN. At Lakota I know one farm there had a barn that must have cost \$10,000 and they had some very fine cows there.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Chairman, in connection with this bill I would like to say that a similar bill was reported out for Dalhart, Tex., at the last session. At Dalhart the people purchased the land for this purpose and it was understood that it would be established. However, the war came on and it was not established. Now it seems to me if you are going to establish this one that you ought to establish the one in Texas.

Mr. ASWELL. Each proposition can stand on its own merits, Mr. Jones.

Mr. JONES. Sure. I am perfectly willing to do that, but I simply wanted to call that fact to the attention of the committee.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Mr. Sinclair, I think your bill should be amended so that it will state that the people there will buy the land necessary to do this.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The bill indicates that, of course.

Mr. KINCHELOE. But I think it should be actually stated in the bill.

Mr. SINCLAIR. It is understood that the land is to be furnished, of course.

The CHAIRMAN. The suggestion has been made that the bill be laid aside at this time; and, without objection, that will be the course pursued.

Mr. KETCHAM. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that I have consulted with Mr. Griest, who stated that he was overwhelmed by the honor of the request. He paid some very courteous compliments to this committee, and said he would be very much delighted indeed to have the committee use his room beginning Thursday and running through Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and Monday, but that he was not so sure as to what the business of the committee would be after Monday. However, he suggested that we might possibly make arrangements beyond that time.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee accept the invitation and that the hearings on remedial agricultural legislation, to start on Thursday, be held in the committee room of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, on the third floor of this building.

(The motion, being duly seconded, was unanimously carried. Thereupon the committee proceeded to the consideration of other business.)

Mr. JONES. Now, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the hearings on this remedial farm legislation I move that the committee meet at 10 o'clock in the morning and adjourn to 10 minutes to 12 each day.

Mr. HALL. I will second that motion.

(The motion, being duly seconded, was unanimously carried.)

The CHAIRMAN. A suggestion has been made that we adjourn this meeting until 10 o'clock Thursday morning to hear the farm relief measures, the meeting to be held in the committee room of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Now with regard to the hearings under the McNary-Woodruff bill which were held some few days back, Mr. Allen, who testified before

the committee, submitted quite a number of statements here, which amount to considerable printing. I had a conversation with Mr. Allen over the phone on yesterday and he suggested that three of these statements be inserted in the record and that a list of the names attached to the other statements be placed in the record, but that the statements themselves not go in. That was confirmed this morning on the telephone. He has asked that these three statements be inserted and that a list of the others be inserted in the record, and without objection it is so ordered. The committee will now adjourn until Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, to meet in the committee room of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

(Thereupon, at 11.30 a. m., the committee adjourned.)



